

A UNIQUE EXPANDED NOTCH POINT FOUND IN SCIOTO COUNTY

by
Mark Long
Jackson, Ohio

I found this Expanded-Notch point in August, 2010, along Holland Fork Branch of Buckneck Creek in the drainage of the Little Scioto River. This point was recovered because a logging operation had churned up the earth, and then a thunderstorm washed the ground smooth. The artifact is made of Carter Cave flint and measures 3 1/8 inches long. Although the blade was fashioned using large percussion flaking, the beveled edge exhibits fine pressure-flaked serrations which are sharp and show no signs of wear. With the tip pointing down, the re-sharpened, or beveled, edge is on the right side, a characteristic of other Archaic Bevels, to which the E-Notch variety is closely related. The expanded notches are delicately chipped, a manufacturing trait which gives the artifact a distinctive appearance and may reflect a special hafting technique. Because Bevels are usually made of local cherts, the fine flint of this artifact is not typical.

It is interesting to follow the Little Scioto southwesterly from the find site to the Ohio River, about two miles above the Tygart River. About 30 miles up the Tygart lies the source of Carter Cave flint. This route could have been a supply route, by travel or trade, for Carter Cave flint.

Archaic Bevels, including the E-Notch variety, date to the Late Archaic period of about 5,000 years ago.



Figure 1 (Long) Expanded-Notch point from Scioto County.